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AUG 21 2006

Application No.: 09/857,480  
Inventor: HEGER et al.  
Reply to Office Action of 19 April 2006  
Docket No.: 49619

**REMARKS**

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Young and Supervisor Hartley for courtesies extended to their representative during phone interviews throughout the week of 14 August to 18 August, 2006. The interviews attempted to clarify issues relating to the Office Action of 19 April 2006. Apparently, a problem arose at the USPTO wherein Examiner Young lacked access to a declaration submitted with Applicants' reply of 5 December 2005. Consequently, the Office Action of 19 April issued without examination of the declaration. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request a complete review of the submitted declaration and issuance of an appropriate Action. Additionally, where the Action includes a rejection of one or more claims, Applicants respectfully request resetting the time period for response.

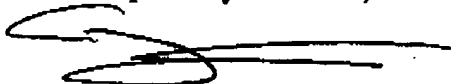
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**Conclusion**

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account 14.1437. Please credit any excess fees to such account.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd R. Samelman  
Registration No.: 53,547

NOVAK DRUCE & QUIGG, LLP  
Customer No.: 26474  
1300 Eye St. N.W.  
400 East Tower  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Phone: (202) 659-0100  
Fax: (202) 659-0105

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